

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough examination of the present application as evidenced by the Office Action of December 7, 2004 (hereinafter "Office Action"). In response, Applicants have amended independent Claims 1 and 11 by incorporating recitations from Claims 10 and 15, respectively, to clarify that the first and second lens assemblies project first and second arrays of image pixels on a non-planar surface that overlap along a single edge. A combination of the first and second arrays of image pixels covers a continuous, 180 degree portion of the non-planar surface.

Applicants respectfully submit that the cited references fail to disclose or suggest all of the recitations of the independent claims as amended. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of all pending claims is respectfully requested for at least the reasons discussed hereafter.

Objections to the Drawings

The drawings stand objected to under 35 U.S.C. §1.83(a) because they allegedly fail to show a second image source, second array of image pixels, and second lens assembly. (Office Action, page 2). Applicants respectfully submit that all claim recitations are illustrated in the drawings as FIG. 7 illustrates two optical projection systems 70 and 72.

The drawings stand objected to under 35 U.S.C. §1.84(p)(5) as failing to include reference signs 70, 72, 74, and 76. (Office Action, page 3). In response, Applicants submit herewith a proposed amendment to FIG. 7 in which the aforementioned reference signs are included.

Independent Claims 1 and 11 are Patentable

Claims 1 and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U. S. Patent No. 2,280,206 to Waller et al. (hereinafter "Waller"). (Office Action, page 4). Independent Claim 1 is directed to an optical projection system and recites, in part:

...
a second image source that is configured to generate a second array of image pixels; and
a second lens assembly that is configured to project the second array of

image pixels onto the non-planar surface such that the first array of image pixels and the second array of image pixels overlap along a single edge and a combination of the first array of image pixels and the second array of image pixels covers a continuous, 180 degree portion of the non-planar surface.

In particular, Claim 1 recites that the first and second arrays of image pixels overlap along a single edge and cover a continuous, 180 degree portion of the non-planar surface. Independent Claim 11 includes similar recitations. In sharp contrast, FIG. 1 of Waller illustrates projections that do not overlap along a single edge, but instead cross each other at oblique angles near the image sources. Moreover, no two projections cover a continuous, 180 degree portion of the projection surface when combined.

For at least these reasons, the Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 1 and 11 are patentable over the cited references and that dependent Claims 2 - 9 and 12 - 14 are patentable for at least the reason that they depend from an allowable claim.

Double Patenting

Independent Claims 1 and 11 stand provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over Claims 1 - 45 of copending Application No. 10/109,385 in view of Waller. (Office Action, page 9). The Office Action states that Application No. 10/109,385 does not disclose the first and second arrays of image pixels overlapping along a single edge, but maintains that Waller provides the missing teaching. (Office Action, page 9). Applicants respectfully disagree. As discussed above with respect to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), Waller illustrates projections that do not overlap along a single edge, but instead cross each other at oblique angles near the image sources. Moreover, no two projections cover a continuous, 180 degree portion of the projection surface when combined.

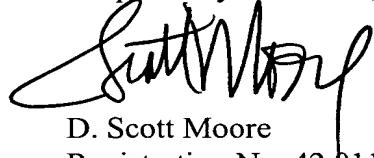
For at least these reasons, the Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 1 and 11 are patentable over the cited references and that dependent Claims 2 - 9 and 12 - 14 are patentable for at least the reason that they depend from an allowable claim.

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CONCLUSION

In light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the above-entitled application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (919) 854-1400.

Respectfully submitted,



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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on March 7, 2005.



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